

2497
The True and Remarkable
Trial, Condemnation,
and Execution of
LOUIS THE XVth,
Late KING of FRANCE.

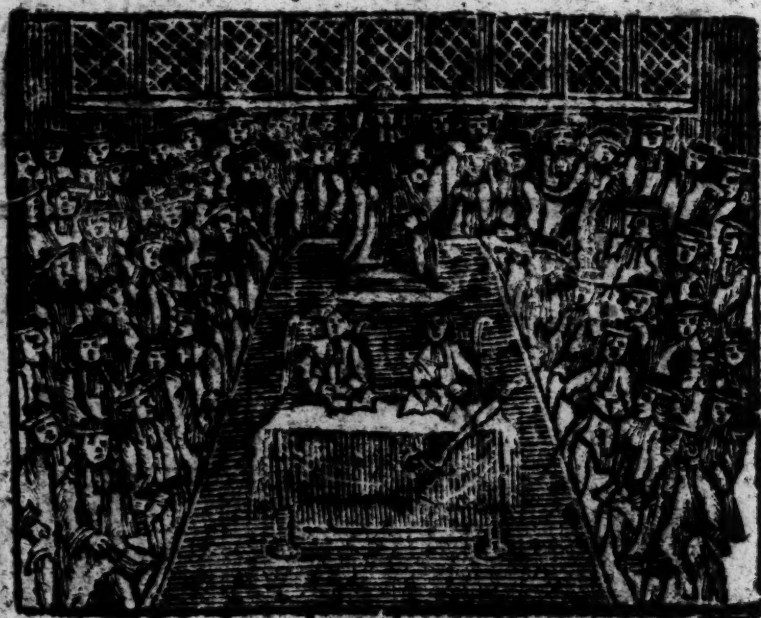
Who was on Monday last Beheaded at Paris,
upon a Scaffold.



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The Trial, &c. of *Louis.*

THE French Convention being assembled, Louis was put to the bar and examined ; a long debate then ensued, when it was determined by a great majority, that Louis had been guilty of High Treason.



They next determined, That there should be an appeal to the people. And finally condemned to death.

On the 18th, a fresh appeal nominal commenced, touching the sentence of death passed on the King, in order to discover whether any mistake had been made in the collection of the votes.

Vergniaux, Gaudet, Genfonne, and many other members, who had announced a wish that the Assembly should examine the question respecting the suspension of the execution of the sentence, declared, that they had not yet actually voted for that suspension, and desired to be included amongst those who had voted purely and simply for death.

Others who had more expressly voted for the suspension, persisted in declaring their indivisible opinion.

The question relative to the suspension of the execution of the sentence was adjourned till the next day.

On the 19th the Convention proceeded to the appeal nominal, on the question, Whether the execution of the sentence passed on Louis Capet should be delayed?

At the close of which, the President declared the following to be the result:

Out of 738 members, 17 were absent on commission, 21 from sickness, 8 without any assigned reason, 12 did not vote, 310 were for delaying the execution of the sentence, and 348 for putting it into execution.

The Convention then ordered their decree to be immediately notified to the Executive Coun-

cil, with ordrs to give an account the next day, at eleven o'clock, of the measures taken to put it into execution within 24 hours.

Having thus finally condemned the King, the Convention brok up at two o'clock on the Sunday morning.

The following letter from the unfortunate Louis, read at the Bar of the National Convention by his Counsel Seze, was written in his own hand, and expressed in the following terms;

"I owe it to my honour, and my family, not to subscribe to a judgment that accuses me of a crime with which I cannot reprocach myself: In consequence I declare that I appeal to the people from the decision of their representatives, and I request the Naaional Convention to decree that mention shall be made thereof in the proces-verbal.

LOU S."

M. de Seze then made an energetic appeal to the Convention, in the name of himself and his colleagues, to consider with what a small majority the punishment of death was pronounced against Louis, and conjured them not to afflict France by so terrible a judgment.

He concluded, by invoking eternal justice and humanity to determine the Convention to refer their judgment to the people.

M. Trousset declared it extraordinary, that, whilst most of the voters quoted the penal code, to justify their judgment, they forgot that the law requires two thirds of the voices for the decision.

The Minister of Justice informed the Convention, that the Executive Council had called to its assistance the Department, the Mayor, the Commandant General, and Public Accuser of the Public Tribunal. After having consulted, five of them went to the Temple.

At two o'clock they were brought to Louis, when the Secretary read the orders for his death.

Louis answered, by reading the following paper:

The last Requests of LOUIS.

I demand a delay of three days, in order to make the necessary preparations to appear in the presence of God; I demand for that purpose to send for and to see freely the person whom I shall mention. The person whom I demand is M. Elchevaux de Fermont; he lodges at No. 483, Rue de Bacq.

I demand that his person be secured from all disturbance, from all apprehension on account of the last offices of charity which he shall render me.

I demand to be freed from the perpetual inspection, which the Council General has established over me for some months.

I demand in this interval to be able to see my family as often as I shall request, and without witnesses.

I would request, that the National Convention would immediately proceed to deliberate on the fate of my family, and permit them to retire freely wherever it may think proper.

I recommend to the nation all the persons who were attached to me. There are many of them who have expended all their fortunes to purchase places under the new government, and, who having lost their sole dependence, must be in circumstances of want. Among my pensioners, were many aged and indigent persons, who had no other means of support, except the pension which I gave them.

(Signed) LOUIS.

Done at the Temple, Jan. 20, 1793.

The Convention refused to delay the execution, and passed to the order of the day.

Tuesday Morning, Jan. 22.

Louis was beheaded yesterday at the Place Louis XV. at a quarter past ten in the morning. He was conducted thither in the Mayor's carriage, accompanied by his Confessor and two Gendarmes. Great silence was preserved during the procession, but when he reached the fatal spot, the noise of drums and trumpets was great. He ascended the scaffold with firmness, made a sign he had something to say: Little, however was heard, on account of the noise, except, "I die innocent! I forgive you all!" The sentence was instantly executed, and Vive la Nation! resounded on all sides.

There was no getting near, as the whole place, and the avenues, were filled with troops of the line.

A member of the Convention who voted for

(7)
death, was attacked in a Coffee-house and killed. This, it is feared, is but the beginning of a scene of bloodshed, which will not soon be terminated.

The KING's last Interview with his WIFE,
CHILDREN, and Friends.

The King of France took leave of the Queen, and his Infant Son and Daughter, at five o'clock, on Sunday afternoon. The Queen was in a raving delirium.

De Seze, the King's Council, is dying of a broken heart.

M. Maleherbes is the man who announced to the King his fate, in these words, "My Prince, I know you are courageous! but I cannot forbear telling you, sentence has been passed."

Well then, said the devoted King, so much the better! this extricates me from a thousand troubles.

The King thanked him for the efforts he had made in his service.

Maleherbes fell at his feet, and said, I will never leave you, my good Prince! I would die for you!

He was torn from the Royal Victim by a Municipal Officer, who told him, he had orders from the Council, that he should quit the temple.

Maleherbes departed, and fainted before the door, he was carried home, and was much indisposed.

His Majesty had embraced him, taking a ring

a ring off his finger, and giving it to him, saying, "Remember me."

Louis the XVth, was 38 years, and near five months old.

OBSERVATIONS.

With respect to the conduct of the King himself, an object so interesting, he has conducted himself in his awful situation with a calmness and resignation truly admirable.

For some time past he has beheld the term of his life approaching, and has prepared to meet it with a manly fortitude—as a proof of which take the following anecdote :

M. Maleherbes, in a conversation he had with Louis, wished to give him to understand, that the defence, perhaps, would not have the desired effect, and that the issue of his trial was very uncertain. "I understand you," said Louis, "but my resolution is already formed. I behold, without terror, my last hour approaching; and shall lay my head on the block without any uneasiness. What will perhaps surprise you more, is, that my wife and my sisters think on this subject exactly as I do."

Of his wife and family I say nothing—their feelings can hardly be imagined; how then can they be described?—If they escape the cruelty to which he fell a victim, it is to be feared that their deep distress will prove fatal.

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